

Recipe Corner

(This one from Bob Gibson)

Crockpot Corned Beef and Cabbage

Corned beef shrinks by about 50%, so for generous servings buy about one pound of meat per person.

Remove the meat and vegetables from the pot and reheat about 1/2 hour before serving.

Ingredients

2 stalks celery, halved

4 carrots

1 medium onion, cut in 4 wedges

4 to 6 red potatoes, quartered

1 4-pound corned beef brisket

12-ounce bottle stout or dark ale

1 tablespoon corned beef spices or pickling spices (or spices that come with the brisket)

1 medium head cabbage, cut into 6 wedges

Place celery, carrots, onion and potatoes in the bottom of a large slow-cooker or crock pot. Rinse the corned beef brisket and place over vegetables. Add the bottle of stout, spices and enough water to just cover the meat. Cover and cook on LOW for eight to nine hours.

Remove the meat and vegetables from the pot and cover with foil to keep warm. Increase heat to high and cook cabbage until softened but still crispy, 20 to 30 minutes.

Slice brisket across the grain, serve with vegetables, mustard and horseradish sauce.

Always wanted to try this one. Roselee would buy after St Pat's day so we had several in the freezer but none for my experiment?



Birthday the 16th!

Jack "The Beaner" Siegler

Roselee used to read *Jack and The Beanstalk* to him thus the name.

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THE FRANK REPORT

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All the news I see fit to print.

Freedom of the press belongs to those who own one.



Doing my taxes...daughter Margaret (left) English major...daughter Susan, finance major.



Many hours and lots of wine!

Up to 1.2 million tax preparers make a living deciphering the labyrinth U.S. tax code for taxpayers. The IRS reported 63 percent of all returns were done by tax preparers in 2013 and estimates are that about half were filed by unregulated preparers. Intuit, the owner of TurboTax, spent more than \$11 million on federal lobbying between 2008 and 2012. Intuit "opposes IRS government tax preparation," particularly allowing taxpayers to file returns for free. Clumsy as it is, our tax system is a blend of government and capitalism...maybe it's a good compromise.

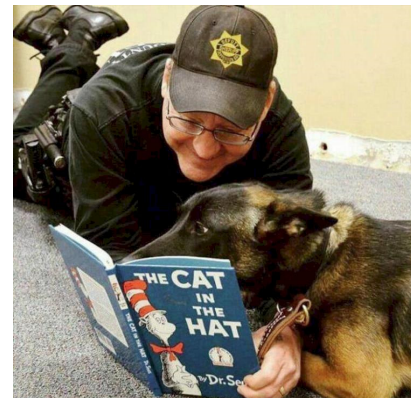


Bon Mots

I haven't lost my mind.

Half of it just wandered off.

The other half went looking for it.



Book Report

Couple of duds first; Dean Koontz *The Whispering Room* and Brad Meltzer *The President's Shadow*.

Forced myself at least a third in for both but just couldn't connect the story lines. First failures from these two in my experience. With the kids here not much reading but Susan and I did manage to watch the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Did come up with the idea of finding the debut novel for my favorite authors list and the librarian is helping track them down.

Medical Report

Annual warm body check at the Veteran's Administration this week. So far, everything fine. Even found out I get eye exams and glasses from the VA since my disability rating was raised. Discovered the difference between optometrist and ophthalmologist. Both had at me for couple of hours. Both were very diligent and typical of the excellent care you get after wading through the administrative side to get an appointment.

Weather Report

Finally getting into the 50's and snow is disappearing. If I want another snow storm, I may switch to the summer tires on the Miata. Takes me about 20 minutes to switch since I have them mounted on their own rims.

-more-



My vet hat gets me discounts and free beer. The following is a tale told by a Vietnam brother...

Yesterday, I wore my Vietnam Veteran cap to Wal-Mart. While in line to check out, the guy in front of me, probably in his early thirties, he asked, "Are you a Viet Nam Vet?" "No," I replied.

"Then why are you wearing that cap?"

"Because I couldn't find the one from the War of 1812 . . ."

I thought it was a snappy retort.

"The War of 1812, huh?" he queried, "When was that?" God forgive me, but I couldn't pass up such an opportunity. "1946," I answered straight-faced.

He pondered my response for a moment and responded, "Why do they call it the War of 1812 if it was in 1946?"

"It was a Black Op. No one is supposed to know about it." This was beginning to be way fun!

"Dude! Really?" He exclaimed. "How did you get to do something that COOOOL?"

I glanced furtively around me for effect, leaned toward the guy and in a low voice said, "I'm not sure. I was the only Caucasian on the mission."

"Dude," he was really getting excited about what he was hearing, "that is seriously awesome! But, didn't you kind of stand out?"

"Not really. The other guys were wearing white camouflage." The moron nodded knowingly.

"Listen man," I said in a very serious tone, "You can't tell anyone about this. It's still 'top secret' and I shouldn't have said anything."

"Oh yeah?" he gave me the 'don't threaten me look.' "Like, what's gonna happen if I do?" With a really hard look I said, "You have a family, don't you? We wouldn't want anything to happen to them, would we?"

The guy gulped, left his basket where it was and fled through the door. The lady behind me started laughing so hard I thought she was about to have a heart attack. I just grinned at her. After checking out and going to the parking lot I saw dimwit leaning in a car window talking to a young woman.

Upon catching sight of me he started pointing excitedly in my direction. Giving him another 'deadly' serious look, I made the 'I see you' gesture. He turned kind of pale, jumped in the car and sped out of the parking lot.

What a great time! Tomorrow I'm going back wearing my Homeland Security cap.

Then the next day I will go to the driver's license bureau wearing my Border Patrol hat, and see how long it takes to empty the place.

Whoever said retirement is boring? You just need to wear the right kind of cap!

See you guys at Walmart!!



My Gang...(l to r) Mary, Susan, Margaret, Chris and Bill. Fun week with Susan here from Boston and Bill from WI. Rest live here in town with Chris, Mary and Margaret just minutes away.



Some of the grandkids made the trip too. (l to r) Grace, Kelvin, Gracie Lee, Alex holding Buster and, Mr. Z.



Susan bringing everyone up to date while Grace fact checks the adults. 800 words a minute with gusts to 1,000...and lots of laughter. Life is good!

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